

Message Text

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60

ORIGIN TAR-02

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 EA-11 IO-14 ISO-00 STR-08 AGR-20

COME-00 LAB-06 SS-20 TRSE-00 SIL-01 EB-11 FEA-02

CEA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-03 INR-11 INT-08 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-03 USIA-15

PRS-01 SP-03 OMB-01 SWF-02 /218 R

DRAFTED BY TARIFF COMMISSION:W.HART:SMM

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R 071953Z AUG 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

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TAGS: ETRD, GATT

SUBJECT: GATT APPLIED TARIFF RATE FILE

1. AS PART OF THE PREPARATORY WORK FOR THE MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS, MTN PARTICIPANTS AGREED AT THE JULY TRADE NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE SUBGROUP 3(A) - TARIFFS MEETING TO A US PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH IN THE GATT SECRETARIAT AN AUTHORITATIVE COMPUTERIZED FILE OF TARIFF RATE INFORMATION. THE FILE WILL SHOW FOR EACH TARIFF LINE ITEM IN A COUNTRY'S TARIFF SCHEDULE THE VARIOUS RATES APPLICABLE ON THREE REPORTING DATES (1 JANUARY OR 1 APRIL 1972, 1 JANUARY 1973 AND 1 JANUARY 1974). THE RATES TO BE REPORTED WILL INCLUDE THE LEGAL OR "STATUTORY" RATE, THE GATT RATE, THE RATE ACTUALLY BEING APPLIED TO MFN IMPORTS, AND RATES APPLIED UNDER THE COUNTRY'S GENERALIZED PREFERENCE SCHEME.

2. OCTOBER 1, 1974 WAS AGREED UPON AS A TARGET DATE FOR COUNTRIES TO SUBMIT THEIR RATE INFORMATION TO THE SECRETARIAT. IT WAS ALSO GENERALLY AGREED THAT COUNTRIES HAVING THE CAPABILITY TO DO SO (I.E., ALL OF THE MAJOR DEVELOPED COUNTRIES) SHOULD SUBMIT THE DATA ON MAGNETIC TAPE IN A FORMAT TO BE SUGGESTED BY THE GATT SECRETARIAT. THIS PROCEDURE WAS IN LINE WITH THE US PROPOSAL AND WOULD AVOID THE INACCURACIES WHICH MIGHT RESULT IF CLERICAL PERSONNEL OF THE GATT SECRETARIAT WERE FORCED TO CONSTRUCT THE AUTOMATED FILES FROM A PRINTED SOURCE.

3. GATT SECRETARIAT PERSONNEL WHO WILL BE CHARGED WITH ASSEMBLING THE RATE INFORMATION FILE FROM INDIVIDUAL COUNTRY SUBMISSIONS HAVE INDICATED IN PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS WITH US PERSONNEL THAT, BASED UPON THEIR RECENT

EXPERIENCE IN THE GATT TARIFF STUDY WORK, THEY DOUBT THAT MOST COUNTRIES WILL MAKE REASONABLE EFFORTS TO MEET THE OCTOBER TARGET, AND THAT SEVERAL COUNTRIES WHICH SHOULD HAVE THE CAPABILITY TO DO SO (NOTABLY JAPAN, AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, SOUTH AFRICA), WILL NOT SUBMIT THEIR FILES IN THE REQUESTED MAGNETIC TAPE FORM, BUT INSTEAD WILL SIMPLY TURN OVER DOCUMENTS FROM WHICH THE SECRETARIAT WILL HAVE TO CONSTRUCT A FILE. SECRETARIAT PERSONNEL HAVE SUGGESTED THAT A US INTERCESSION IN THE CAPITALS COULD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PERHAPS ASSIST IN CORRECTING THESE TWO PROBLEMS.

4. POSTS ARE REQUESTED TO CONTACT APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF RESPECTIVE HOST GOVERNMENTS AND URGE COMPLIANCE WITH OCTOBER 1 TARGET DATE AND SUBMISSION OF THEIR DATA ON MAGNETIC TAPE IN THE COMPLETE DETAIL AGREED UPON IN THE GATT GROUP ON TARIFFS.

5. TO ASSIST POSTS IN THEIR DISCUSSION, GATT DOCUMENTS DESCRIBING THE INITIAL US PROPOSAL AND THE FINAL AGREEMENT TO ESTABLISH THE FILE ARE BEING POUCHED TO ADDRESSEES. POINT SHOULD BE MADE WITH HOST GOVERNMENTS THAT AN IMPORTANT PURPOSE IN ESTABLISHING AN AUTHORITATIVE FILE OF TARIFF RATES IS FOR USE IN THE WORK WHICH MUST BEGIN PROMPTLY AFTER NEXT MEETING OF TNC NOW SCHEDULED FOR MID-OCTOBER. KISSINGER

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